

Critics' Circle Picks 'Annie Hall'

By JANET MASLIN

"ANNIE HALL" was chosen the best film of 1977 by the New York Film Critics' Circle yesterday. The Woody Allen comedy was selected over Luis Buñuel's "That Obscure Object of Desire," in second place, and Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," in third. The critics' group has 26 members, 25 of whom took part in the voting.

Mr. Allen's script for "Annie Hall," co-written by Marshall Brickman, was named best screenplay, in the group's only first-ballot choice. Mr. Allen was also cited as best director, ahead of Mr. Buñuel and Mr. Spielberg. Diane Keaton was named best actress for her performance in "Annie Hall." Second choice for best actress was Shelley Duvall, who appeared in "3 Women." Third choice was Miss Keaton again, this time for "Looking for Mr. Goodbar."

Like the National Society of Film Critics, which also cited "Annie Hall" as best picture, last Monday, the New York Film Critics' Circle allows its members one vote each on a first ballot. Then, if no majority winner is chosen, each member makes three choices and awards them three, two or one point.

Gielgud Best Actor

"Annie Hall" received 46 points in the best-picture category, as opposed to 28 for "That Obscure Object of Desire" and 12 for "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Mr. Allen received 35 points, as opposed to 33 for Mr. Buñuel and 16 for Mr. Spielberg. Miss Keaton received 34 points for her "Annie Hall" performance and 25 points for "Looking for Mr. Goodbar." Miss Duvall was voted 27 points for "3 Women."

John Gielgud was named best actor for his performance in "Providence," with 37 points. Fernando Rey was second choice with 31 points for "That Obscure Object of Desire." John Travolta was also cited, with 25 points, for his performance in "Saturday Night Fever."

Sissy Spacek was named best supporting actress for her performance in "3 Women," with 31 points. "She's going to be very interested to find out she was playing a supporting role,"



Woody Allen, director, co-author and star of "Annie Hall"

one group member was heard to comment. The other two actresses named for supporting performances were Vanessa Redgrave, who had the title role in "Julia," with 25 points, and Donna Pescow of "Saturday Night Fever," with 22 points.

Edward Fox Not Named

Maximilian Schell was named best supporting actor for his role in "Julia," with 30 points. Bill Macy was second choice, with 17 points, for his performance in "The Late Show," and David Hemmings was cited third, with 14 points, for "Islands in the Stream."

Although the memberships of the

National Society of Film Critics and the New York Film Critics Circle overlap considerably, and although the former group named Edward Fox of "A Bridge Too Far" as best supporting actor on Monday, he received not a single vote at yesterday's meeting.

The awards will be presented at a party at Sardi's on Jan. 29. The group's only other business, at a meeting in the offices of the Newspaper Guild of New York, 133 West 44th Street, was a motion to admit radio and television critics to its ranks, which presently include only writers from newspapers and magazines. The motion was defeated.

The New York Times

Published: December 22, 1977
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